

Public Notice

US ARMY CORPS
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St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence

Reply To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: Regulatory Branch 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Public Notice No.

P-2629

Public Notice Date

May 17, 2007

Expiration Date
June 7, 2007

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: 2005-45263

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Mitigation Bank Prospectus has been received pursuant to the guidelines contained in the Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use, and Operation of Mitigation Banks (60 Fed. Reg. Pages 58605-58614, 1995).

<u>COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: All comments and/or requests for public hearing must reach this office no later than the expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 ATTN: Mr. Shawn Sullivan

<u>APPLICANT</u>: Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Attn: Mr. Mark Koester, 2350 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2555. (314) 768-6327.

<u>AGENT</u>: Geotechnology, Inc. Attn: Mr. Sean McGary, 11816 Lackland Road, Suite 150, St. Louis, Missouri 63146. (314) 997-7440.

<u>LOCATION</u>: The proposed stream mitigation bank is located between Interstate 55 and Lemay Ferry Road in south St. Louis County, Missouri. More specifically, the proposed mitigation bank is located on a site formerly known as the Union Road County Park which is situated in Township 44 North, Range 06 East, Mehlville, St. Louis County, Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Applicant seeks approval from the Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT) to establish a stream mitigation bank. The stream mitigation bank will serve as a means for the applicant to compensate for unavoidable and adverse environmental impacts to waters of the United States, specifically creeks and tributaries with ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial flows. The MBRT is composed of representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Missouri Department of Conservation who are responsible for reviewing, recommending modifications, and approving or disapproving Mitigation Banking agreements. The primary objective

of the proposed mitigation bank is to conduct in-stream channel enhancements and bank stabilization activities within approximately 3,000 linear feet of Gravois Creek channel, restore approximately 15.6 acres of wooded riparian corridor by planting trees within open grassy areas on the site, and enhance 24.9 acres of existing wooded riparian corridor by removing an invasive understory shrub known as Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*). The total Gravois Creek stream length proposed for improvement and/or protection as part of the mitigation plan is 5,230 linear feet.

If approved by the MBRT, the mitigation bank will contain a total of 47 acres of restored, enhanced, and preserved aquatic resource and associated riparian corridor that will be used solely by the applicant to compensate for impacts that occur within the geographic service area of the mitigation bank. The geographic service area is proposed to consist of the Cahokia-Joachim Watershed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may deem impact areas outside the geographic service area to be appropriately mitigated at the proposed bank, on a case-by-case basis. This mitigation bank proposal does not preclude the applicant from complying with Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines when applying for a Section 404 Permit, and considering on-site or within the immediate subwatershed mitigation opportunities first, when impacts to waters of the United States cannot be practicably avoided or further minimized. Gravois Creek flows into the River Des Peres Drainage Channel which is a primary tributary to the Mississippi River.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached maps.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Shawn Sullivan, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8580. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to Shawn.F.Sullivan@mvs02.usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed would not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES:</u> The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

EVALUATION OF PROBABLE IMPACTS: The decision whether to authorize Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to enter into an agreement with the Corps and MBRT will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are:

conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

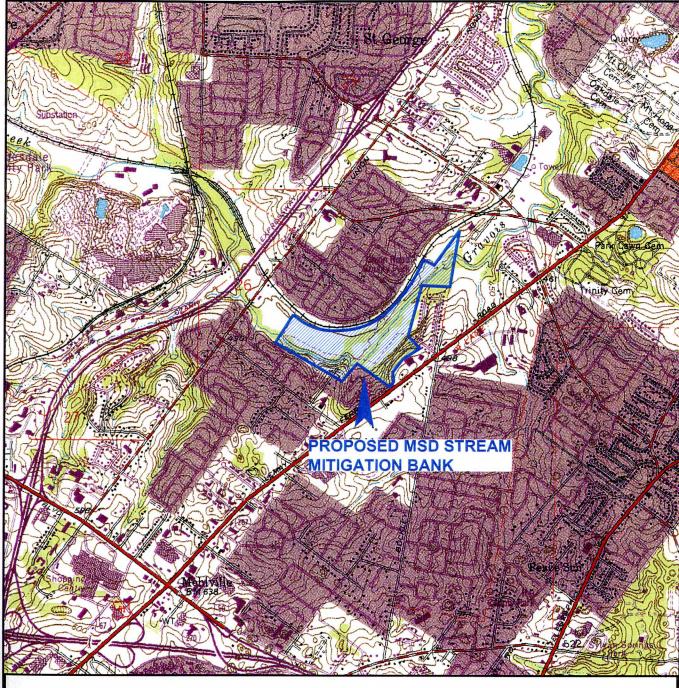
SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to approve, modify, or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

DANNY D. MCCLENDON Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.



NOTES

 Plan adapted from 7.5 minute U.S.G.S. maps for Webster Groves, Missouri Quadrangles, last revised in 1993.



Engineering Architecture Surveying

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Drawn By: ARK	Ck'd By: SPM	App'vd By: DWI
Date: 11-1-06	Date: 4-6-07	Date: 4-6-07



Gravois Creek Stream Mitigation Bank Prospectus

> SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Project Number 0815002.61TW

PLATE 1

